Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 1:

Another flat bed scanner described in US-A-4 764 815 involves the use of a complex pneumatic double-platen system to carry and step the media to be scanned. The reciprocating head mechanism includes inertia operated springs, and a complex and expensive hard to control acousto-optic deflector unit located at a fixed position with mirror means to transfer light beams to the reciprocating head with no ~~focussing~~ focusing means for imaging.

Paragraph beginning on page 12, line 11:

Three vacuum cups are located on the top surface of the carriage body, shown at 661,66-2 and 66-3 with air ducts 82. Each cup is made up of a soft rim and a harder core against which the plate is pulled. In order to place them vertically at the exact level of the focus plane, each suction cup unit is attached to a plate 67 mounted on the carriage body, secured and adjusted by screws 68. For large printing plates all suction cups are energized. For smaller plates, only two cups are energized. The number of cups to activate can be done by programming or electronically by a photo detector system as explained below. A photodetector device is shown at 94, supported by bracket 95. Its purpose is to make sure that there is no preceding plate sitting on the ejection zone 12 waiting to be moved to the processing area. Another photodetector 92 attached near the rear end of the body of the carriage is supported by bracket 93 to determine the presence or absence of a plate when the carriage is returned to its home position and to selectively energize the vacuum cups as explained above. Box 80, attached to the top of the unit by a bracket 81, contains photoelectric means to measure the intensity distribution of the radiation emanating from the optical head. Its purpose is to make it possible to adjust the intensity of pixel groups as explained in co-pending U. S. application ~~[SN***]~~ Serial Number 524,673, entitled"Pixel Intensity Control in Electro-Optic Modulators", filed on March 13, 2000. For defining the exact position of the carriage along its path of movement, an encoder system 88 is provided. The encoder system, for example, may be an inductive or capacitative measurement system. One type suitable for the purpose of the present invention may comprise a read head RGH22F and a self-adhesive scale RGS-S available from Renishaw UK. Thus, by means of the encoding system 88, the actual position

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of the moving carriage as required by a controller (not shown) at any time can be achieved by the combination of the linear motor and the encoder 88.

Paragraph beginning on page 16, line 4:

Fig. 11 is a simplified block diagram of the platesetter system as per the invention. All the elements within the limits of box 160 are part of the platesetter unit as described above. All the elements of box 162 are included in the travelling head of the machine, also called imaging or printing head. As mentioned as a characteristic of a preferred embodiment of the invention, it includes all what is necessary to project images, in particular a laser unit 163, a light modulator 164, a plate edge detector 165, the moving part 168 of a linear motor and an encoder 166. Wiring or ducts globally shown at 169 connect the moving head to stationary supplies or controllers. Box 170 represents the ~~composants~~ components of the plate mover unit. In addition to vacuum grippers, it includes the moving part of a linear motor 174, a light intensity measuring cell 176 and an encoder 172 co-operating with fixed scale 173. The elements of box 170 are connected to stationary sources via connectors 175. These sources include the laser supply 179, the travelling head interface 178 and two-axis~~axe~~ controller 180. Other electronic controls of the platesetter are represented at 182 and 183. The CPU 181 controls the operation of the machine. Data on the location of the head along its rails and its speed are transferred to block 178 by encoder 166. Information concerning the state and displacement of the plate-mover are transferred to block 170 by encoder 172. All these controls insure the safe and efficient travels of the head and of the pate-mover. They insure the best performance achievable also rendered possible by the fact that the time taken by the head at the end of one scan for deceleration, reversal and acceleration is approximately the same as the time taken by the plate mover to move one step, including stabilisation time.

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